

stance. Even if the tubercle be cut through, the cut surface thus exposed undergoes no change in color, but remains of the same uniform white, and this distinction remains even when the tubercles have become very dark brown or have been thoroughly dried. The brown color is slightly soluble in water.

Specimens of this material have been preserved at the New York Botanical Garden. I have been hoping to have an opportunity to investigate further this color change in the mycelium of *P. Ravenelii* and determine if it was of the same character as the blue color that appears in certain *Boletii* when injured and which Schönbein has shown is due to the action of ozone.* Removal of residence and failure to find such a remarkable growth of these plants elsewhere has prevented my carrying the investigations further.

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JOSEPH HINSON MELLICHAMP

BY WILLIAM M. CANBY

Dr. Mellichamp — an excellent botanist of South Carolina — died on James Island in that State on the second of October last.

Joseph Hinson Mellichamp, the son of the Rev. Stiles and Sarah Cromwell Mellichamp, was born in St. Lukes Parish, South Carolina, on the 9th of May, 1829. His father was for many years Preceptor of Beaufort College and afterwards was pastor of St. James Church on James Island. Being a lover of outdoor life and of natural objects, he gave his son a taste for the same and especially for botany, which continued throughout his life. In 1849 he graduated from South Carolina College and in 1852 from the Medical College at Charleston. He then spent some time in Europe, studying in the hospitals of Dublin and Paris. On his return he established himself as a physician at Bluffton, South Carolina, and here he remained most of his life — the exceptions being the time when he was a surgeon in

* Cf. De Bary, Comp. Morph. and Biol. of the Fungi, 15.

the army of the Confederate States and when, during his last years, much of his time was spent with his daughter and only child in New Orleans. It was during this period that, to his great delight, he accomplished a visit to California and its "big trees."

Notwithstanding the diligence required to fulfil the responsibilities of a large practice among the planters and their dependents, he found time for much botanical research and collecting. In the interesting floral region around him were many of the rarer species described by Walter, Michaux, and Elliott. Specimens of these were much prized by the botanical fraternity and, through his correspondents, were largely and freely distributed and are now valued samples in many of the best herbaria.

His good judgment in making observations and clear statements of the results brought him the correspondence and esteem of Doctors Gray, Engelmann, and other masters of the science. For Dr. Engelmann he investigated the flowering and fruiting of some species of *Yucca*, the peculiar oaks of his region, and especially *Pinus Elliottii*, which he practically discovered and, in the excellent notes he furnished, adequately described. Very acute observations on the insectivorous habits of *Sarracenia variolaris* were published in the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In this paper he recorded his discovery of the lure by which insects are tempted to the fatal pitcher of the leaf; of the fact that the secretion therein is more or less of an intoxicant; and the curious fact that the larva of a certain insect was able to resist the secretion and to feed upon the decaying mass. Dr. Sargent, in his *Sylva* of North America, acknowledged his services in the studies of the oaks and other trees. Dr. Gray so esteemed his assistance that he named a Mexican Asclepiad in his honor *Mellichampia*. Desirous of helping others, he was one of those useful men who, diffident and retiring, and not caring to advance their own fame, always willingly give to others the benefit of the knowledge they have acquired. It is not too much to say that but for him, considerable of value would have remained unknown of the flora of his district; grateful acknowledgments of this have come from European as well as American botanists.

Dr. Mellichamp was an ardent lover of nature, with a poetic and artistic spirit, and his letters teem with fine descriptions of the various objects which attracted him in his professional drives about the country. He was wont, as the spring approached, to speak of the exceeding beauty of the young flowers of *Pinus Elliottii*, as they expanded their cones over the trees, crowning their robes of green with a haze of purple. His letters show the keenest sense of the loveliness and delicious warmth of a spring in the pines with flowers opening everywhere, the fragrance of the woods, of jessamine and of magnolias filling the air made vocal with the songs of mocking-birds.

But best of all, he was a man to be loved for his qualities of heart and mind. A magnetic and attractive man, his friends and correspondents cannot forget his ready kindness and words of cheer and will cherish his memory. He was beloved by the poor people of his district who, in a touching way, mourned the loss of their "old doctor" as his body was borne to the grave. As might have been supposed he was intensely southern in his feelings and in his love for his native State. He now rests in her bosom; and the well-known lines, slightly altered, may well be applied to him, "Little he'll reck if they let him sleep on in the grave where a *southern* has laid him."

SHORTER NOTES

PRIMARY VENATION IN CINNAMOMUM. — In discussing the proper generic affinity of *Cinnamomum affine* Lesq., F. H. Knowlton* makes the assertion that "The joining of the secondaries to the midrib at some distance above the base is distinctly a character of *Cinnamomum*, and *all known species possess it.*" The italics are mine.

In view of the variability of leaves in this respect such sweeping statements should be made with great caution. Both Schimper and Lesquereux † in defining the genus particularly mention

* Knowlton. *Flora Montana Form.* U. S. Geol. Surv. Bull. 163 : 43. 1900.

† Schimp. *Pal. Veget.* 2 : 839; and Lesq. *Teil. Fl.* 218.